

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 28, 2004, Claims 27-33, 35-39, 41-49, 51, and 53-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because of the phrase “passing the modified calling party identification number of the called party.” While Applicants believe that this phrase is clearly supported in the specification, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 27, 44, and 45 to more closely match the actual language used in the specification. Accordingly, act (c) in independent Claim 27 now recites “in response to a privacy indicator, restricting a passing of the calling party identification number of the group associated with the calling party.” (The other independent claims contain similar amendments.) Restricting the passing of a calling party identification parameter in response to a privacy indicator is discussed, *inter alia*, at page 10, lines 19-24:

In forming the response, the SCP honors a privacy indicator for the calling party. Hence, if the user dials a privacy access code (such as “*67”), the call is anonymous. Further, if a user has per-line blocking, the blocking is honored by the SCP. Consequently, the service restricts the passing of the calling party identification parameter for both per-call and per-line privacy indicators.

This paragraph clearly teaches restricting the passing of a calling party identification parameter in response to a privacy indicator. The calling party identification parameter is that of the group associated with the calling party, as recited in the amended claim. This is clear from the preceding paragraph (on page 10, lines 10-17): “The step of forming the response also includes modifying the calling party identification parameter . . . to the [calling party identification number of a group associated with the calling party].” This is also shown in Tables I and II, which show modifying the calling party identification number of the calling party to a calling party identification number of a group associated with the calling party.

Other portions of the specification that support this amendment are found in the following passages:

Page 2, lines 32-35: "Another object of the present invention is to provide a telecommunication service in which members of a group can selectively place group-related, direct-dialed calls from home, where per-line and per-call privacy indicators are honored in the group-related calls."

Page 5, lines 32-33: "If the first member desires that the call be anonymous, a privacy access code (such as "*67") is dialed prior to dialing the phone number."

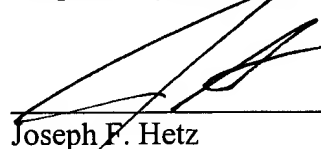
Original Claim 7: The system of claim 1 wherein the service switching point receives a privacy access code prior to receiving the dialed number, and wherein the service control point restricts a passing of the calling party identification number to the called party in response thereto."

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejections should be withdrawn and that this application should be passed to allowance. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

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